

# Annual Report + Giving Guide | **2025**



# President's Message



“

While financial sustainability remains our greatest challenge, it's also our greatest opportunity—to grow the circle of people who believe in what we do and the impact of architecture on our communities.

”

## **2025 has been a year of inspiration, connection, and meaningful progress for the California Architecture Foundation (CAF).**

This year, CAF awarded \$56,780 in scholarships, supporting 19 individuals and 11 NAAB-accredited schools in California. These scholarships are more than financial aid—they are a vote of confidence and recognition of each recipient's potential. Since 1979, CAF has awarded more than \$625,000, and this year we are proud to bestow awards under the Mel Ferris Architectural Scholarship after a long hiatus.

The Foundation launched the new *California Architectural Practice Experience Program* (capX) statewide, connecting students to internships and job-shadow opportunities. Nearly half of the participants are from community colleges, alongside students from California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), private California universities, the experience-only path, and recent college graduates. Participation in capX grew significantly from our 2024 pilot, reflecting strong demand and interest in the value of real-world experiences.

CAF also expanded efforts to reach students long before they enter college, launching *Choose Architecture*, a California-focused career resource guide to help inspire young people see themselves in the profession, learn more about what an architect does, the pathways to licensure, and suggestions to learn more. CAF shared the guide and the Foundation's *Architecture by the Book* education program at the American School Counselor Association Conference in Long Beach, introducing architecture as a career pathway to more than 5,000 school counselors.

CAF gratefully assisted AIA California in supporting those impacted by the January Palisades and Eaton fires. Thanks to the generosity of donors, \$7,100 in fire recovery aid was disbursed to AIA Los Angeles and AIA Pasadena Foothill Chapters to support individual members and local efforts.

To strengthen community connections, the Foundation launched *CAF Corner*, a quarterly e-newsletter, now reaching 453 subscribers, with impact stories and ways to engage.

In fundraising, our *First to Give* campaign more than tripled its goal, fueled by a matching gift from CAF Regents Scott Gaudineer, AIA, and Betsey Olenick Dougherty, FAIA. Altogether, CAF launched eleven fundraising campaigns that are either completed or still underway.

While financial sustainability remains our greatest challenge, it is also our greatest opportunity: to grow the circle of people who believe in what we do and the impact of architecture on our communities. If you've already given, CAF thanks you. If not, I warmly invite you to join as a donor.

Please visit [calarchfoundation.org/donate](https://calarchfoundation.org/donate) to make your gift today. Together, we can ensure the architects of tomorrow have the inspiration, support, and opportunities they need to succeed.

Michael Patrick Porter, AIA

# Enriching Communities Today + Educating Architects for Tomorrow

## Mission

The California Architectural Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting excellence in architecture through scholarships, grants, and educational programs—bridging the gap between the academic and professional worlds. CAF exists to provide a mechanism for members of the AIA and the general public to contribute to an organization with a great benefit to society.



## Vision

### **Empowering Tomorrow's Architects**

We support the success of budding architects on their academic journey. From scholarships to internships that provide invaluable mentorship opportunities, we aim to serve as a vital link between academia and the profession.



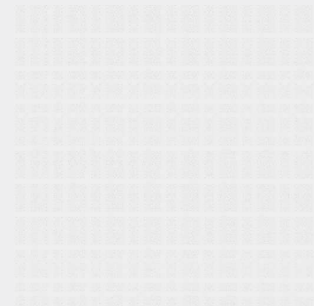
### **Championing Architects & Their Impact**

We're on a mission to raise awareness and appreciation for the pivotal role architects play in shaping our built environment, highlighting the transformative power of architecture in crafting vibrant, healthy, and sustainable communities.



### **Igniting A Passion for Architecture**

We are committed to igniting an interest in architecture. Through our architectural education programs and career resources we introduce students of all ages to the profession and showcase the value architects bring to society, both now and in the past.



# Supporting Architecture Students

## Scholarship Programs

CAF believes every talented student deserves the opportunity to pursue an architectural education, regardless of financial barriers. Our four scholarship programs remove obstacles and open pathways for the next generation of California architects.

To ensure this support continues long into the future, CAF is committed to building endowment funds that will sustain these awards perpetually for generations to come.

Scholarship and Award Funds  
Distributed Since 1979

**\$625,000**



Funds Awarded in 2025

**\$56,780**



Number of Applicants

**131**



Schools Reached

**52**



Scholarships Awarded

**19**



**LEARN MORE**



[calarchfoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships](https://calarchfoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships)

calarchfoundation.org





# Paul W. Welch Jr., Hon AIA ARE Scholarship

In recognition of Paul Welch Jr.'s distinguished and lengthy career serving architects and the architectural profession, this scholarship was established to honor his contributions to the California Architects Board (CAB), his work with AIA California, and his steadfast belief in the value of architectural licensure.

The scholarship recognizes the significant contributions of emerging professionals at early stages in their careers and encourages them to complete the licensure process by covering all associated costs.



Paul W. Welch Jr., Hon. AIA

*"I am proud of these talented and determined scholarship recipients who are committed to mastering the fundamental skills that define practicing architects and pursuing licensure. Each shows exceptional promise."*

## 2025 Recipients

**Erica Buitrago, Assoc. AIA**

AIA San Francisco

**Matthew Haak, AIAS**

University of Southern CA | IPAL

**Payton Narancic, Assoc. AIA**

AIA Central Valley

**Marco Zhou, Assoc. AIA**

AIA Pasadena & Foothill



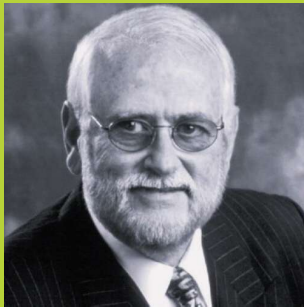
"Being selected for the Paul Welch Scholarship affirmed my path toward licensure and reminded me that others are invested in my success. This pushes me to keep going and give back in the future."

**Marco Zhou, Assoc. AIA**

# Chester & Diana Widom Architectural Education Scholarship

The Widom Scholarship was established in 2017 by Chet Widom, FAIA and his wife Diana Widom in honor of Paul Welch Jr., Hon AIA.

The scholarship provides financial support to community college students transferring to an accredited school of architecture. Scholarship recipients will receive up to \$5,000 to apply to qualified tuition and related expenses and to improve or enhance their capacity, skill and talent while studying architecture.



**Chester A. Widom, FAIA**

*"These nine scholarship recipients truly embody what we look for--students who are not only committed to their studies but already showing aptitude for the design, practice, and community building that architecture demands."*

## 2025 Recipients

**Robert Avanesyan**

Glendale Community College

**Michael Brentlinger**

El Camino College

**Andrea Factor**

El Camino College

**Ryan Hoo**

Pasadena City College

**Nicola Ogdock**

College of the Canyons

**Jorge L. Reyes**

East Los Angeles College

**Arlan Elijah Toglao**

Cosumnes River College

**Jose Ubaldo**

Glendale Community College

**Adam Whitman**

LA College / Santa Monica College



"Thanks to the Widom Scholarship, I am able to continue my education and work toward designing spaces that uplift and strengthen my community."

**Jorge L. Reyes**

# Robert J. Kain Healthcare Design Education Scholarship

The Kain Scholarship, established by AIA California's Healthcare Facilities Forum Planning Committee in memory of Robert J. Kain, AIA supports architecture students pursuing careers in hospital and healing environment design.

Scholarship recipients receive \$2,000 to help offset costs of higher education in architecture. The award can be used for qualified tuition and related expenses or to otherwise improve or enhance capacity, skill or talent in the field of healthcare architecture.



**Robert J. Kain, AIA**

*Bob Kain, AIA, ACHA, left an indelible mark on healthcare architecture as president and CEO of HMC Architects from 1995 to 2000. His enduring commitment to nurturing future architects led him to establish Cal Poly Pomona's Healthcare Architecture Initiative.*

## 2025 Recipients

### **Covadonga Gordillo**

University of California, Berkeley

### **Jorge L. Reyes**

East Los Angeles Community College  
Woodbury University

### **Yuka Suzuki**

California State Polytechnic  
University, Pomona



*"I am deeply committed to working hard to create opportunities, improve living conditions, and design meaningful, accessible healthcare architecture for communities in need. This scholarship will be an invaluable tool in helping me achieve these goals, and I will remain profoundly grateful for the support it provides."*

**Covadonga Gordillo**

# Mel Ferris Architectural Scholarship

The Mel Ferris Scholarship provides financial assistance to university level architectural students enrolled in accredited schools of architecture in California who have demonstrated financial need and exemplary academic and design achievements.

The scholarship is awarded in three tiers:

- First Place: \$5,000
- Second Place: \$4,000
- Third Place: \$3,000

Additionally, each of California's eleven NAAB accredited school of architecture will receive \$500 in 2025 to distribute to distinguished students.



**Mel Ferris, Hon. AIA**

*Mel Ferris, Hon. AIA, served as the Executive Vice President of the AIA California Council from 1953 until his retirement.*

## 2025 Recipients

### **Covadonga Gordillo**

UC Berkeley

### **Julianna Barrenos**

University of Southern California

### **Jorge L. Reyes**

East Los Angeles Community College  
Woodbury University



"It is truly an honor to receive the Mel Ferris Scholarship. This award wouldn't have been possible without the support and sacrifices my parents have made to allow me to pursue a career in architecture. Thank you very much to the Kein Family and the Mel Ferris Scholarship jury for your generosity and for supporting my journey in this field!"

**Julianna Barrenos**



# Bridging Education & Practice

## capX Internship Program



The California Architectural Practice Experience Program (capX) serves to bridge the gap between architectural education and professional practice by connecting students and emerging architects with firms across California for internships, job shadowing, and community building. After a successful 2024 pilot, the program opened statewide in 2025.

capX achieved strong diversity and geographic representation, successfully engaging community colleges, the program's the largest participant segment. Enrollment reached 86 participants, surpassing the target of 50 and demonstrating significant student interest and demand for bridging educational and professional experiences.

### Geographic Distribution

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Northern California | 47% |
| Southern California | 30% |
| Central California  | 23% |

### Educational Distribution

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Community College            | 48.8% |
| Calif State University (CSU) | 20.2% |
| Calif Private University     | 14.3% |
| University of CA (UC)        | 8.3%  |
| Experience Path              | 7.1%  |
| High School                  | 1.2%  |

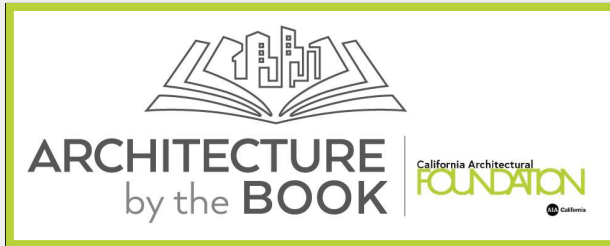
### Career Stage

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Architecture Student | 50%   |
| Graduate / Exp Only  | 21.4% |
| Exploring Profession | 20.2% |
| Not identified       | 8.3%  |

### LEARN MORE

→ [calarchfoundation.org/capx\\_2025/](https://calarchfoundation.org/capx_2025/)

# Growing Architectural Awareness K-12 Education



*Architecture by the Book* brings architecture into classrooms and community spaces, introducing the profession and sparking curiosity about why design matters in daily life. Each lesson is centered on a children's book, a notable architect, or an architectural concept, and paired with an engaging presentation and a hands-on activity using recycled materials.

Designed to be completed in about 90 minutes, the program is impactful for students while remaining manageable for volunteers.

The program is steadily growing, with more volunteers, schools, and community partners participating each year.

Originally developed and piloted by AIA Central Valley, *Architecture by the Book* expanded statewide in 2024 through CAF with support from firm sponsorship, donors and a grant from the AIA College of Fellows.

[calarchfoundation.org](http://calarchfoundation.org)

**90 Volunteers**

**10 Lessons** (and growing!)

**17 Firms Supporting Lessons**

## **LEARN MORE**



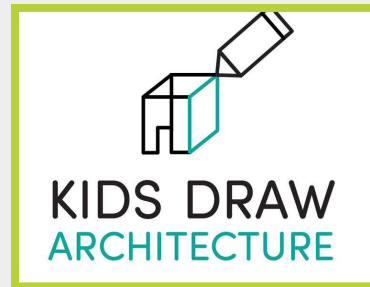
[calarchfoundation.org/help-children-discover-architecture-one-page-at-a-time/](http://calarchfoundation.org/help-children-discover-architecture-one-page-at-a-time/)

# Growing Architectural Awareness K-12 Education



*Choose Architecture* is a new California-focused guide that helps young people explore a future in the profession. Aligned with CAF's mission to make architecture more accessible and inclusive, the guide introduces what architects do, the various paths to licensure, and suggestions for students to start exploring the profession.

Featuring insights from California architects, AIA California design award projects, and resources on education, internships, and scholarships, *Choose Architecture* is a valuable tool for teachers, school counselors, parents, AIA chapters and members to provide important details on the profession and spark career conversations.



Kids Draw Architecture, created in 1988 by the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara, connects architects with children and their families to foster early appreciation for the built environment.

In small groups, architects guide students through sketching exercises that help them observe architectural details and understand how buildings shape communities.

Since 2017, AIA chapters across California have hosted events, engaging thousands of students in hands-on experiences that make architecture more accessible and inspiring.

## **LEARN MORE**



[calarchfoundation.org/choose-architecture/](https://calarchfoundation.org/choose-architecture/)

# Join Our Growing List of Donors

CAF depends on donor support to continue and expand our mission. Every gift makes a difference, and there are many ways to give: one-time donations, monthly support, annual sponsorship, Founder's Circle or legacy giving.

Donors 70½ or older may be eligible for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA, a gift that may be excluded from taxable income that can count toward Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's).

Donors support sustains CAF scholarships, helps the Foundation grow the California Architectural Practice Experience (capX) program, and continue to bring architecture into local communities through *Architecture by the Book*.



## How to Give

**Tax Information** CAF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Federal Tax ID: 94-2626009 | CA State Tax ID: D-0967116

*Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Online:** Visit [calarchfoundation.org/donate](http://calarchfoundation.org/donate) to give by credit card. Choose "unrestricted" or designate a specific program or scholarship. You'll receive an email confirmation immediately. *Note: Credit card processing fees apply unless you choose to cover them.*

**By Check:** Make checks payable to California Architectural Foundation (CAF) and mail to: 1931 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

**Wire Transfer:** Contact CAF for wire transfer details including routing number and bank information.

**Questions?** Contact Kim Anderson [Kanderson@aiacalifornia.org](mailto:Kanderson@aiacalifornia.org) | 916-642-1730

**LEARN MORE**



[calarchfoundation.org/donate](http://calarchfoundation.org/donate)

# Donors (9/1/2024 - 9/2/2025)

CAF thanks every individual and firm for their generous support. Every contribution helps advance the Foundation's mission and create lasting impact on the future of architecture in California.

## \$20,000+

Scott Gaudineer, AIA  
Chester Widom, FAIA

## \$15,000+

*Thank you to the 2024 Monterey Design Conference attendees whose registration contributions, art auction purchases and raffle participation combined raised \$18,000 for CAF.*

## \$5,000+

Betsey Olenick Dougherty, FAIA &  
Brian Dougherty, FAIA  
Debra Gerod, FAIA  
Elizabeth Gibbons, AIA  
Lionakis Foundation  
Kenneth Rodrigues, FAIA

## \$4,999 – \$2,500

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Mary Follenweider, FAIA  
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Christopher Holt, AIA  
Michael Porter, AIA  
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Lisa Sachs, FAIA

## \$2,499 – 1,000

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Hafsa Burt, AIA  
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Larry Scarpa, FAIA  
Christine Theodoropoulos, AIA

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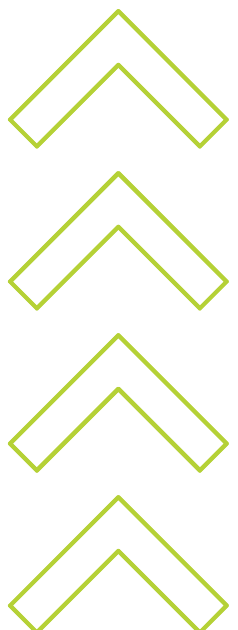
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## \$999 – \$500

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## \$499 – \$200

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## \$499 – \$200

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# Legacy Giving

Leave a legacy that will shape the future of architecture in California for generations to come!

By supporting the California Architectural Foundation, legacy donors give back to a profession that has defined their career, and ensure that the next generation of architects has the resources, inspiration, and opportunities they need to carry the profession forward.

There are many ways to leave a lasting mark. A legacy gift can strengthen CAF's mission, endow or expand an existing scholarship, create a new named scholarship in honor of an inspiring individual, or support an educational program that introduces young minds to the power of design.

By including CAF in a will, or naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan, or other assets, it is possible to retain full control of resources today while securing potential tax benefits for heirs tomorrow.



**LEARN MORE**



[calarchfoundation.org/planned-giving/](https://calarchfoundation.org/planned-giving/)

# Financials

## Summary Statement as of July 31, 2025

### Assets

Current Assets: \$506,426  
Accounts Receivable: \$2,750  
Other Assets: \$6,402  
Total Assets: \$515,578

### Liabilities

Current Liabilities: \$34,953  
Total Liabilities: \$34,953

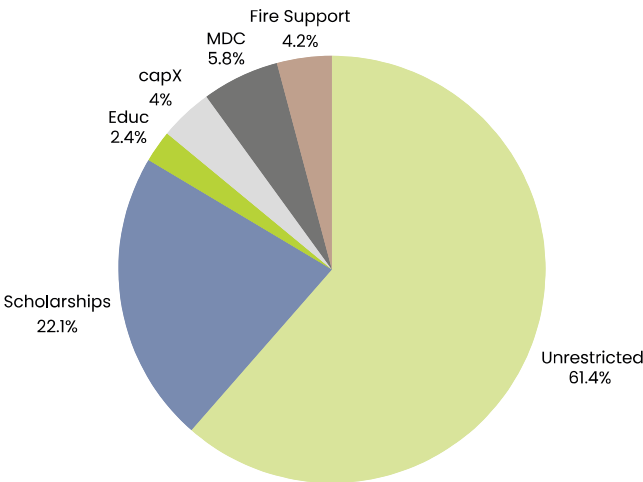
### Net Assets

Unrestricted: \$192,311  
Permanently Restricted: \$135,101  
Temporarily Restricted: \$179,014  
Total: \$506,426

### Documents Available Upon Request:

2025 Budget  
501c3 Documents

## Contribution Summary: July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025



## CAF & AIA CA: Working Together

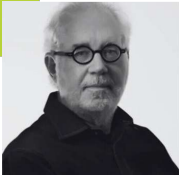
CAF is the charitable 501(c)(3) arm of AIA California. The two organizations share a strong, collaborative relationship, with ongoing efforts to deepen their connection and impact.

A financial commitment from AIA California has provided vital support to re-envision the Foundation, but CAF must build the strength and resources necessary to sustain its mission for the long term.




# 2025 BOARD OF REGENTS


CAF is led by a dedicated staff and a diverse, passionate Board of Regents, working together to enrich lives, strengthen communities, and inspire positive change within the architectural profession.




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**Michael P. Porter, AIA**




**Vice President**  
**Scott Gaudineer, AIA**  
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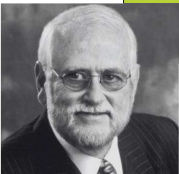
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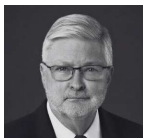
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